



FROM THE COMMANDER

Welcome to our Team!

Allow me to extend my personal welcome to you and your Family as you join our team. Regardless of what unit you serve in, this will be one of the most rewarding and satisfying assignments in your career.

If you haven't been to Fort Polk lately, you haven't been here at all. Since 2004 we've spent nearly \$750 million on improvements on a whole host of projects. We turned the bulldozers loose on the worst set of Family quarters and built better ones for all ranks, completely renovated the others, and completed three of four neighborhood centers with swimming pools that don't cost you a dime to use. We have one of the finest education centers of any installation offering multiple opportunities for you and your Family members to further their education with six different colleges and universities. We've put a lot of thought and effort into transforming our hospital into a state-of-the-art facility for everything from physical therapy to having a baby. And we recently opened our brand-new \$20 million dollar PX mall and broke ground for a Chili's restaurant. As you view the photos in the accompanying Newcomers' Brief, I have no doubt you will agree with me and Command Sergeant Major Hof that Fort Polk is one of the Army's best-kept secrets.

The Army has invested its money in our installation because our senior leaders recognize the importance of what we do here. We have eight colonel level commands, all with unique and critical missions. The 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division, the 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and the 115th Combat Support Hospital all completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the 4th Brigade and 115th Combat Support Hospital recently deployed again. The Joint Readiness Training Center is a world-class training facility that gives deploying brigades a tough, realistic, and relevant experience before going to the fight. Half of the Army's deploying units – 10 brigade combat teams annually totaling 50,000 Soldiers – conduct the most rigorous and realistic training event in their life cycle to certify them for combat deployment. In October 2010 JRTC led the Army by conducting the Army's first rotation since 2003 for 'Full Spectrum Operations'.

Last year Fort Polk became the home to the Army's center of excellence for training combat advisors to conduct the Security Forces Assistance mission. The 162d Infantry Brigade trains combat advisors from all services both here and at Army installations around the country. The difference we make as we train units for combat is measured in the lives saved and missions accomplished.

Our strength as an installation lies in the diversity of our units and the breadth of support we provide. In addition to the units I already listed, Fort Polk hosts a MEDDAC, a DENTAC, and a dedicated Garrison staff whose combined efforts ensure the highest-quality support to every member of our community. From Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital to our dental clinics to the several technical directorates, our operating motto is, "Service First for Soldiers and Families!" Fort Polk truly is a crown jewel for the Army.

Our country is at war. While the Army expects us to provide a key and critical role, this is also an opportunity for you to catch your breath and strengthen your resilience and your relationships. This is a great installation to serve at and raise a Family. You'll see for yourself as you take advantage of our extensive quality-of-life programs – make us your home. I look forward to meeting you in person upon your arrival, and to working with you to achieve our mission. Congratulations on your assignment to Fort Polk!

Clarence K.K. Chinn
BG, USA
Commanding

*HOOAH!!!
Welcome to the
Home of Heroes!*